

Kenny Letter

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AMC CG VISITS LETTERKENNY

U. S. Army Materiel Command's General Benjamin F. Griffin and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Business Transformation, Paul Brinkley visited Letterkenny Army Depot on March 8th.

Meeting with Depot Commander, Colonel Robert Swenson for an overview before touring the depot, General Griffin praised Letterkenny for winning the Shingo Prize. "This is a very important award. All of AMC sends their congratulations!"

Visiting the HMMWV line in Building 350, General Griffin talked with workers at workstations about Lean efficiencies. They took a moment to watch the process of setting an engine into the HMMWV chassis.



Mr. Brinkley, General Griffin and COL Swenson



Mr. Brinkley and General Griffin in Bldg. 350

General Griffin and Mr. Brinkley moved to the tactical missile areas in Building 370 and were briefed by COL Swenson on the recent ribbon cutting designating the Javelin Joint Venture and viewed the circuit card area. Both visitors complimented employees and recognized the tedious nature of the process that employees undergo repairing damaged cards.

A steady workload of Generator repair was viewed in Building 37 and, for the first time, General Griffin and Mr. Brinkley saw the tent cities being overhauled, known as Force Provider.

The TADS/PNVIS (Target, Acquisition, Designation Sight/Pilot's Night Vision Sensor) partnership with Lockheed was next on the agenda in Building 13.

Both visitors remarked on the transformation that Letterkenny has undergone using Lean and Lean Six Sigma initiatives.

General Griffin discussed his belief in mentoring with the right mix of newer employees learning from those with years of experience.

Promising to return for a future visit, General Griffin talked about his concern for Soldiers. He said: "Being the Commanding General of AMC is great. There's never a dull moment". As for his concerns: "The only thing that keeps me up at night is worrying how to up-armor Soldiers even more".



COL ROBERT A. SWENSON

Commander's Corner

Many opportunities have arisen for the depot to interact with the community during this spring season.

Hundreds of people visited the depot during Armed Forces Day, May 20. It was a busy day starting with the fish rodeo and lots of other activities for kids, including pony rides, face painting and refreshments.

Tours of Building 350 returned this year and the eight depot cemeteries were opened for the annual visit.

Governor Rendell and Congressman Shuster co-sponsored a Business Opportunity Showcase at the Hays Development Center. The Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce and Franklin County Area Development Corporation pulled the details together and attracted almost 70 representatives from about 30 industries to take a look at Letterkenny.

Major General James Pillsbury, Commanding General of U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command and Mr. Ron Davis, Army Materiel Command's Deputy Chief of Staff for Transformation attended. Internationally-known industry giants like Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon and BAE were represented as well as regional friends such as Valley Quarries and T. B. Woods.

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Yablonsky addressed the group at the opening dinner at Chambersburg Country Club. His Executive Deputy Dan Gunderson spoke at the showcase the next day offering details about

the advantages and incentives of doing business in Pennsylvania.

I gave the visitors tours of the depot before they departed on June 8. Opportunities to bring the depot together with leaders like these can often result in partnerships that are beneficial to the Soldier and the taxpayer.

Representatives of the Chamber and Franklin County Area Development Corp. were pleased with the attendance and interest and suggest that a showcase like this may become an annual event on behalf of Letterkenny.

We celebrated Flag Day and the Army's 231st birthday with a cake cutting ceremony in the headquarters Great Room on June 14. The next night, The Army Materiel Command Band, AMC's Own performed a Salute to America at the Capitol Theatre. Over 800 people attended this free concert and enjoyed patriotic favorites, marches and popular songs.

It has been a busy spring season at Letterkenny. As we go through the summer, I urge you to stay safe. The depot provides many tips to help keep you alert to ways to prevent accidents.

We're getting ready to start planning our Organization Day on September 21. Employees will join at the Letterkenny Recreation Area to enjoy a steak dinner and socialize and play some games during the afternoon. We always enjoy the music of Second Phase. Directorate secretaries will have the two dollar tickets that reserve your space. I'm looking forward to seeing you at Organization Day.

Commander: COL. Robert A. Swenson
Public Affairs Specialist: Alan Loessy; Kim Russell
Photos: Don Bitner

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LETTERKENNY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES SHOWCASED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY EVENT

Governor Ed Rendell and Congressman Bill Shuster co-sponsored the first nationally-attended business showcase for Letterkenny Army Depot. The Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce and Franklin County Area Development Corporation handled the logistics.

Internationally known defense contractors like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, BAE and others joined regional firms like Valley Quarries and T. B. Woods to learn more about the depot and explore opportunities to partnership.

Approximately 70 delegates representing 30 defense contractors attend this Business Opportunity Showcase. Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development offered the keynote speech during a reception/dinner at the Chambersburg Country Club.

Secretary Yablonsky said that Governor Ed Rendell intends to continue investing strategically in the state's military installations to build on what is already there. "I'm looking for business prospects and activity to come out of this," the Secretary said.

In sessions throughout the next morning at Hays Development Center, the groups heard Major General James Pillsbury, Commanding General of U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command. MG Pillsbury, saying he holds Letterkenny as a model of the future Army depot, told potential defense partners: "This is a big deal. I need your core capabilities and connection."

Mr. Ron Davis, Army Materiel Command's Deputy Chief of Staff for Transformation echoed MG Pillsbury's remarks and discussed AMC Commanding General Benjamin Griffin's partnership initiatives.

Presentations were made by the state and community leaders in attendance before the groups broke apart to tour the depot or

participate in panels. Mr. Dan Gunderson, Executive Deputy Secretary of Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development spoke about the advantages and incentives of doing business in Pennsylvania. Colonel Robert Swenson led the depot tours of Building 350, where he discussed how much the depot has improved using Lean and Six Sigma. He reminded these visitors that Letterkenny won the first-ever Shingo Prize Public Service category last year.

Noting that this is the first time the community has sponsored a Business Opportunity Showcase to bring depot and industry leaders together, Mike Ross, Chairman of Franklin County Area Development Corp. said: "We are planning to make this an annual event."



Depot Commander, COL Robert Swenson addresses the business showcase participants.



Mr. Ron Davis, Army Materiel Command Deputy Chief of Staff for Transformation



Major General James Pillsbury, CG, US Army Aviation and Missile Command

EUROSATORY ATTENDANCE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

By Kim Russell, PAO

So just what is Eurosatory? It is the World's largest ground equipment show held in Paris, France. I recently had the opportunity to attend this show on 12 – 16 Jun 06. Being selected to represent Letterkenny Army Depot at the US Army booth was an honor. If that wasn't enough, the entire trip was funded by the U.S. Army Security and Assistance Command.

Eurosatory is held annually in a huge convention center near the Charles de Gaulle Airport. I was a participant in the Army booth along with representatives from the Program Management Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation at Redstone Arsenal, AL. Also located in our booth was a Blackhawk pilot from Davison Army Airfield and the U.S. Army Security and Assistance representative. Letterkenny displayed three armored doors representing steel, composite and ceramic materials. Thanks to our welding shop in Bldg 350, who welded the doors onto a tripod, we had a display that garnered the most attention in the Army booth.



This show is attended by 55 countries and 753 companies worldwide. It was amazing to see so many countries that are working on armor solutions for Humvees, aviation technology, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and everything imaginable for a Soldier in war.

I met the American Ambassador to France (Craig Stapleton) and had to take advantage of a photo opportunity. I met many interesting people and spoke of Letterkenny's vast capabilities. I invited various companies to visit Letterkenny, one of which visited on 6 Jul 06. Jane's Defense

is a firm based in the United Kingdom. They do have offices worldwide and our two visitors were from the Strategic Advisory Services in Arlington, VA. They write weekly and monthly publications on the Army's equipment reset efforts and various capabilities.

This was an invaluable learning experience for me. It also is great to keep spreading the word about Letterkenny Army Depot and our great employees.



Kim Russell with American Ambassador to France Craig Stapleton.

COMMANDER'S AWARDS FOR CIVILIAN SERVICE

AMCOM Commander, MG James Pillsbury presented Commander's Awards for Civilian Service to this group during his visit to Letterkenny on June 8th. He thanked them for their service in Iraq and Kuwait.



First Row: Carlos Cintron, Stephen Zeger, Dobby Gaiski, John Spellman, Doug Bush and Garry Schuchman. Second Row: Daryl Sites, Maurice West, Kevin Rill and Christopher Hewitt.

LEAD FD HOLDS SAFETY STAND-DOWN DAY

By Jessica Koerth – PAO Intern

On June 21st and 22nd the Letterkenny Fire Department held its second annual Safety Stand Down day. This is done through the program known as Courage to be Safe, Everyone Goes Home. This program began in 2004 after the number of Line of Duty Deaths increased throughout the state. It was initiated by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation as a way to educate and train firefighters to be safe when facing any situation. Adams Electric Cooperative Inc. was on hand to demonstrate what can happen when people come in contact with electricity.



Adams Electric Coop demonstrates how electricity is conducted through a tree branch.

The demonstration was held at Building 11. The demonstration included high voltage lines that powered 7200 volts. Adams Electric showed what can happen when a kite, tree, and even a person comes in contact with an electrical wire. It was important to note the dangers that are affiliated with electricity.

Later in the afternoon Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, Ed Mann, gave a training session to the firefighters at the station house. His emphasis was on safety of all firefighters and what can be done to prevent Line of Duty Deaths. Pennsylvania has had one of the highest numbers of firefighter deaths in the country. As it stands today, Pennsylvania is number two, just behind New York.



Deputy Commander, Dr. John Gray welcomes State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann.

The number one cause of Line of Duty Deaths among firefighters is heart attacks, followed by motor vehicle accidents. Training for this program began in 2005 and currently 11,000 firefighters statewide have taken this training. Other states are following our lead and started to train their firefighters under the same program. The goal for the Everyone Goes Home program is to have zero fatalities among all firefighters statewide for one year.

HEAVY RAIL DOCK PLANNED FOR LETTERKENNY

On April 4, 2006, the Secretary of the Army accepted an offer from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC) to construct a heavy rail dock at Letterkenny Army Depot.

The heavy rail dock will enhance Letterkenny's capabilities as the inland node storage site for the Port of Philadelphia and will allow it to rapidly deploy equipment and load and unload military vehicles and equipment.

Once the project is constructed, the Franklin County Area Development Corporation will donate the heavy rail dock to the Army.

The dock will be situated along the rail track near the intersection of California Avenue and East Patrol Road.

The design for the 80-foot dock and ramp and short rail spur is nearly complete. The FCADC's contracting effort will begin in the near future, and a late spring construction start is anticipated.

SHINGO PRIZE SITE VISIT

By Serina Henke, LEAN

The Shingo Prize for excellence in manufacturing for the public sector was first awarded last year and LEAD won silver for PATRIOT. The Shingo Prize award represents world-class performance in cost, quality, and delivery through lean philosophy and practices.

LEAD has applied again this year for the Shingo Prize award with the HMMWV Recap program as the chosen commodity. We have successfully received a site visit by scoring enough points on the Shingo Prize achievement report. The visit will be 14-16 June 2006.

Positive progress has been accomplished in the HMMWV area since the program started in September 2004. In the beginning we struggled to figure out how to produce 5 HMMWVs a day. Due to customer demand increases, the bay process was turned into a flow line in June 2005. Then in January 2006 we were producing 19 HMMWVs a day. Another improvement can be illustrated with the time from induction to paint at 71 days in January 2005 and at 34 days in April 2006. The part shortages have been reduced to nearly zero with less than 3 shortages per 100 vehicles. The number of deficiencies found before paint has been reduced from 36.8 per vehicle in January 2005 to 9.5 per vehicle in April 2006. As a result the customer have found little or no defects per vehicle.

Lean has conducted 48 Rapid Improvement Events (RIEs) in the HMMWV Recap area to include mini RIEs to setup the subassembly area and flow line. One RIE upgraded the test track facilities and made access more efficient. The mini RIEs for the assembly lines and subassembly, setup gravity racks with a two bin system to eliminate the hardware shortage. The mechanic would empty one bin and place it at the bottom of the rack to be picked up by the parts person, and another full bin would slide into its place. Also production boards and 6S boards were hung in all areas, and all parts racks were organized and labeled. Another accomplishment from the RIEs was that task lists were updated and verified by the

mechanics in the area to ensure all tasks were accomplished. For better process flow a pull system was created to supply the main line with the subassemblies. Also shadow board templates were created during some of the RIEs to easily locate and quickly change the tool needed to complete the task.

Recently, the production boards were improved, information boards were created, and the area is in the process of being painted.



Typical items posted on the information board at the end of the line are the quality trends, the production control board, the 6S board, and the production trend.



At each workstation the boards consist of the daily production sheet, quality weekly data, workstation task summary book, and standard work layout.



The shadow boards allow the mechanics to quickly find and inventory the tools. The mechanics have taken the initiative and shadowed the rest of the tools in the areas.



Some areas have been repainted to include discipline boxes for the locations of all items. All of the employees have been very supportive and willing to improve the process.

ARMED FORCES DAY

By Jessica Koerth, Public Affairs Office

On Saturday May 20th Letterkenny Army Depot opened up the gates once again to the public for Armed Forces Day. This is the first time in five years that the public was allowed to go inside the buildings here at LEAD, due to security reasons after the events of September 11, 2001. The day began at 8:00 AM and there were numerous people waiting to attend.

Activities for children were a big part of the day's celebration. One of the biggest activities was the Children's Fishing Rodeo. The stream had been filled days earlier in preparation for all of the children that would arrive with fishing poles in hand. Another activity that took place in the recreation area was the Candy Scramble and Pony Rides. At Building 350 families had the opportunity to take rides in the HMMWV's. LEAD also had the pleasure of welcoming the Buffalo Soldiers Drill Team at 12:00 on Saturday as well.

There were numerous tours that took place around LEAD. Tours from Building 350 took place all day long, giving visitors an idea of what LEAD employees do each day. Other tours included the eight cemeteries and former homesteads. A joint POW/MIA and Memorial Day Service was presented at 11:00 by the United Churches of Chambersburg.

Letterkenny displayed a variety of military equipment for the public to see. Not only did LEAD participate in these displays, but so did the Army National Guard, the Chambersburg Police Department's Special Emergency Team, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Franklin County Fire and Safety Equipment.

By the end of the day everyone was proud of what they had done. The public was well aware of just how important LEAD is to them. Some of the visitors came because they or a family member used to work here. Some came because they thought it would be an interesting visit to see exactly how LEAD operations work. Either way, everyone was pleased with how the day went and happy to be able to once again return for Armed Forces Day.

COMMANDER'S AWARDS

By LeAnn Helman, PAO Student Volunteer

Letterkenny Army Depot Commander Colonel Robert A. Swenson presented length of service awards to depot employees on March 28th in the Building 10 Great Room. Fifteen people received awards for 25 years of service, twenty-seven people received awards for 30 years, fourteen people received awards for 35 years and one for 40 years.



A United States flag is given to Eldon Zeger for forty years of service.

After presenting all the awards Colonel Swenson said: "Thank you for your service to the country". He said, "Some people are concerned about the age of our workforce, I'm not. Older workers bring experience". The Commander also stated, "If I added right, there are over 1000 years of labor sitting in this room, that's remarkable".

Three depot employees were presented with service awards for their commitment to serving in either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. They were Melvin Binkley, Mike Kirkpatrick, and Mark Jansen. The Commander thanked these men and remarked "everyone who went offered a valuable incentive to the Army and I appreciate your sacrifice".

The last award presented was the David M. Goodman Award. This award was established in 2004 as a local honorary award to recognize employees assigned to Letterkenny Army Depot whose clearly exceptional performance of duties significantly advanced and supported the depot's mission.

This honorary award is named after Mr. David M. Goodman, former Director of Maintenance, in recognition of his selfless service, steadfast support, and outstanding contributions to Letterkenny Army Depot.

Four employees were nominated for the Professional/technology Award. All employees assigned to Letterkenny Army Depot, including military personnel are eligible for this award.

A voting panel comprised of management and non-management representatives from the depot directorates ranked the nominees. Runners up for the Goodman Award included Samuel Beauchamp, Jeffery Kimple and James Snively. The 2004 winner of the David Goodman award was Kim Russell, Public Affairs Specialist. (See separate story).



Left to right: Melvin Binkley, COL Swenson, Mike Kirkpatrick and Mark Jansen. They served in either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

COMMANDER'S HOTLINE

The Commander's Hotline number is 7-5550. Anyone wishing to express a concern or wishing to bring an issue to the attention of the Commander is asked to call this number. That number will ring in the office of the Acting IG. You may leave your name and telephone number if you wish to receive a response or you may remain anonymous. If the IG is unavailable, you may leave a voice message. The Acting IG will ensure your message is given to the Commanding Officer.

LETTERKENNY MUNITIONS CENTER MISSILE PAINTING AND CONTAINER REPAIR

by Steve Fisher

The paint shop at Letterkenny Munitions Center (LEMC) has turned into a huge success story over the past two years. What was once a part-time, one-man operation has turned into a full-time, four-man operation.

During these past two years, LEMC has painted hundreds of Air Force missile containers, including Sidewinder and High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) all-up-round containers and missile component containers. LEMC personnel have also painted and refurbished tactical HARM missiles, components, and support equipment for the Air Force, Navy, and foreign military sales (FMS); and HARM captive carry training missiles for the Navy. Taking unserviceable assets and turning them into "like new" serviceable training missiles support the naval fleet requirements. LEMC has successfully been painting both Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles and containers. The painting of missile test stands and refurbishing forklifts have helped LEMC save both time and money. Foreign ammunition boxes and outer packs are also routinely painted in the LEMC paint shop.

Another associated LEMC capability is container repair. Air Force and Navy missile containers that come from Air Force field units or the Naval Fleet don't always come to LEMC in a serviceable, reusable condition. LEMC repair personnel overhaul these containers and turn them into a like-new asset. Missile and other container repairs range from welding to replacing handles and brackets. Upon repair, containers are then transferred to the LEMC paint shop for the finishing touches to upgrade them to a serviceable, condition code "A" asset.

The Painters themselves come from a varied background with a total of over one hundred years of experience. They make their own computerized stencils and are a one-stop-shop for painting requirements at LEMC. The paint shop itself is equipped with a new paint booth and air compressor. In the near future, a

blast booth will also be installed. This will further enhance LEMC capabilities for the ever-expanding container repair and painting mission at LEMC.

The efforts mentioned above provide significant and required results for the various missile programs, but they are only part of the constant inter-service missile support delivered year round as required by LEMC. Much of this work is not planned in advance, but when the missile programs request and require results, LEMC is always up to the task!



LEMC personnel Keith Swanger, Larry Thomas, and Rick Chamberlin.

IAP AWARDEES

Colonel Robert Swenson presented certificates to the second quarter, FY 06 Incentive Awards Plus Program in the Great Room of Bldg. 10 on May10th.



Fourteen awards were presented during this period.

“SUSTAINING THE ICON”

By Monica Dean



The Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS) is one of the many successful commodities that make Letterkenny proud. The BIDS operation is located in building 350 and Scottie Oliver and his team of Max, Chad, Gary, Joe, Lee, Wayne, and Ron guide the process efficiently. This particular area has been the focus of Lean on different occasions and it has become a refined process. The BIDS area has gained a robot that drills 80% of the 220 holes on the BIDS shelter. The Robot implementation is a positive gain for the employees in the area.

The BIDS process is extremely neat and organized and this helps to insure that the team is working smarter and not harder. In order to sustain this icon the team must clean and inspect the area on a daily basis. This effort could not be accomplished by only one of the individuals in this area. The BIDS process has remained an icon because of the effort of the entire team to insure that their area works smarter. The team has taken ownership of this area after the Lean event and their area is sustained to the highest quality because of the commitment of all the team members to the quality of their work area.

The production charts are completed daily so that everyone in the BIDS area is certain of their deadlines and whether or not these deadlines are being met in a timely manner. The 6S charts are also completed daily by each of the members in the BIDS area. The effort of the entire team is what helps to sustain this area so well. They are adequately cross-trained on the Lean tools and they all use these valuable tools effectively. It takes the effort of the entire team to sustain an area this well and BIDS team is able to prove that

with a team effort, even an icon can be sustained.



From left to right “The BIDS Team” in the back row Lee Wilson, Max Doyle, Joe Chilcote, Wayne Alford, and the front Gary Whitfield, Scottie Oliver, Ron Kline, and Chad Walck.

COMMANDER COINS

The Directorate of Supply & Transportation employees involved with the shipping and receiving of HMMWVs for the Letterkenny reset program were presented with Commander's Coins. They were recognized for their teamwork in the motor truck shipment of an extremely high volume of assets over the past months.

Outbound shipments totaling 1949 HMMWVs were shipped between 1 February 2006 and 30 April 2006. The monthly break outs are as follows: February – 650; March – 619; and April – 680. This shipping volume was in addition to other assets being shipped or received and other workload accomplished by the same employees.



ALWAYS A SOLDIER

Thirteen wounded Soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center visited Letterkenny on March 29th. They came to see how their skills matched depot requirements and learn about life in the Chambersburg community.



"Always a Soldier" is an outreach program of U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) designed to match Disabled Veterans with employment opportunities.

Colonel Robert Swenson, Depot Command, along with various depot Directors briefed these Soldiers on depot missions. The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center discussed placement assistance, intern programs, job placement assistance and help with application procedures. The Soldiers were also made aware of the Chambersburg community and what it offers soldiers willing to relocate.

Earl Adams, representing the Always a Soldier program said "this is a great opportunity to get the word out about AMC's vital Always a Soldier program and inform wounded Soldiers of the employment opportunities available within AMC's workforce—especially at Letterkenny."

Visiting wounded Soldiers found the tour and information helpful. Indeed, several of the injured Soldiers had roots to areas surrounding Chambersburg.

Colonel Robert Swenson said: "We owe our disabled veterans a huge debt. The least we can do is identify potential job opportunities and try to match these requirements to the skill sets and qualifications these Soldiers possess. Letterkenny plans to support the Always a

Soldier program now and in the long-term future."

EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR KATRINA SERVICE

Stephan Barry and Edsel Eaton were recognized for their service to Joint Task Force Katrina.

COL Robert Swenson presented plaques on behalf of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore, Katrina Task Force Commander.

The Certificate of Achievement was awarded for exceptional achievement in support of Joint Task Force Katrina from August 30 through September 30, 2005.

The Building 57 employees deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina.



Edsel Eaton (above) and Stephan Barry (below) receive plaques from COL Swenson.



STUDENTS JOIN LEAD FOR SUMMER

By Jessica Koerth, PAO Summer Intern

Paula Bridegam is a native of Chambersburg, PA. She graduated from Chambersburg Area Senior High School in the spring of 2002. After graduating, Paula enrolled into Penn State Mont Alto. While she is at Mont Alto she is majoring in Human Development. Her emphasis is on child development.

Paula has always loved working with children. Last summer she was part of the work study program at the Carlisle Army War College. Paula was the assistant coordinator for the War College's day care center. While she worked there, she had the experience of working with children from six weeks old to five years old. This wasn't her first job with children. Earlier she had volunteered at the Head Start program, which was her first job experience working with children.

During her time here at Letterkenny Paula is working in the Equal Employment Office. She has stated, "I had heard that Letterkenny is a nice place to work at and I am working with a lot of nice people." She is assisting the Equal Employment Office by helping to plan various meetings and participating in developing different power point presentations. Also she is helping out with training for new employee personnel.

After graduating from Penn State, Paula hopes to become a Kindergarten teacher or day care supervisor. Whichever career she plans on achieving, the fact that she will be working with children is the most important thing. On what she will do after college she has said, "I lived in Chambersburg my whole life and I hope to get a permanent job there after college to be close to my family and friends."

Jessica Koerth was born and raised in South Central Pennsylvania, and grew up in Shippensburg. She graduated from Shippensburg Area High School in June 2001. Two weeks after graduating Jessica joined the United States Navy at the age of 17.



Paula Bridegam



Jessica Koerth

During her time in the US Navy she served on board the USS George Washington during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch. While onboard she had the opportunity to visit different countries and see other cultures. During the years serving onboard the aircraft carrier she had suffered a service connected injury and was transferred to the AMC Naval Air Terminal in Norfolk, VA.

June 2005 Jessica was honorably discharged from the US Navy and returned home to Shippensburg. After her discharge she became a disabled veteran due to the injuries and the surgeries that followed. Now Jessica is currently enrolled at Penn State Mont Alto majoring in English.

Jessica is working at Letterkenny Army Depot for the summer under a work study program for college students who are disabled. While she will be working at LEAD she will be assisting the Public Affairs Office and helping out with tours and numerous other functions that will take place. Jessica will also assist Ms. Kim Russell and Mr. Alan Loessy with writing articles for the Kenny Letter. She is grateful for this opportunity to once again work for the Federal Government and help out any way that she can.

Jessica's future plans after graduating from Penn State, is to continue her education and pursue a M.A. in English and receive a teaching certificate. She hopes to one day to become a high school English teacher and help teach students about the vast literature that the world has to offer.

RESERVE TRAINING AT LETTERKENNY

Members of the 811th Ordnance Company and the 321st Ordnance Battalion conducted their two week annual training at Letterkenny Army Depot. The 811th Ordnance Company is stationed in Raille, WV.

Members of both units trained with ammunition and worked integrated with civilians to ship, receive, inventory and classify ammunition. While here, they unloaded thirty-four rail cars of equipment and vehicles recently returned from Iraq. Several of the reservists performed their training in Building 57 on generators. They stayed in the 99th Reserve Readiness Command barracks (Bldg. 3350).



Working with trailers in Bldg. 57



Setting up camp for the two weeks in Letterkenny's Ammunition area.

The training offered experience working with different types of equipment and ammunition.

Training included course work on Improvised Explosive Devices, convoys and survivability.

Some Soldiers from the 811th have done tours in Iraq. With varying degrees of experience, each Soldier learns something new with training offered in "phases". Training consists of classes and "run throughs" where they get to implement everything they have learned. Each Soldier is in charge of an operation to gauge their reaction. Even meals were prepared in mobile kitchen trailers, simulating the environment found overseas.

This is the first time this unit has trained at Letterkenny. In the future, a platoon of the 811th will relocate to LEAD as part of the depot's Reserve program.

Major Dye, reflecting on the times stated: "We make sure that the Soldiers are trained. This training might be the last free training opportunity before we go to war".

"CHIP" PIPER RECEIVES SCHOLASTIC AWARD



Richard C. Piper, Jr. works full time at Letterkenny as an Equipment Operator in the Directorate of Public Works.

In addition to supporting his wife and three children, he has also been earning his Baccalaureate Degree taking courses at night at Penn State University's

Mont Alto campus.

Chip's industrious nature and work ethic were recognized during an award ceremony held April 22. He was awarded the Mont Alto Baccalaureate Degree Scholastic Award for high academic achievement.

A 3.95 cumulative grade point average or better is required to qualify for this award. In discussing Chip's ability to shoulder many responsibilities, his teacher described Chip as "a dedicated, conscientious, achievement-oriented student who would rather sacrifice sleep than turn in an assignment that was substandard."

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TELL THEIR STORY

Three representatives of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen came to Chambersburg to describe their battles during World War II.

Speaking to over 100 Letterkenny employees, retirees and community leaders at the Family Tradition Lighthouse Restaurant, Dr. Eugene J. Richardson, Jr. told the group about Tuskegee Airmen and the challenges they faced. The presentation, sponsored by the depot Special Emphasis Committee, was also witnessed by students of J. Frank Faust Junior High School and Shippensburg University.

Dr. Richardson described the racial attitudes that existed in the early 1990's. Establishing a pilot training school for blacks resulted from a lawsuit by Howard University student Yancey Williams. "It was supposed to be an experiment to prove that black men could not be fighter pilots".

"They had to fight for the opportunity to fight the enemy," Letterkenny Commander Colonel Robert Swenson said.

The first class of five pilots graduated from training at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1942. From 1940 to 1946, some 1,000 pilots were trained at Tuskegee forming the 332nd, the 99th, the 100th and 301st and 302nd Fighter Groups.

These proud airmen created a record unmatched by any other fighter group by not losing a single bomber to enemy fire in more than 200 combat missions.

Dr. Richardson said: "I hope people understand how stupid segregation is. Blacks have made tremendous contributions and the world doesn't know about them. Black history should be integrated with American history."

Colonel John Harrison, Jr., 84, was a command pilot while Henry Moore, drafted into the military eventually to become a crew chief, also spoke briefly with the group.

Following the luncheon, the Tuskegee Airmen offered books for sale. More about Tuskegee is available on the web at www.tuskegee.org



Depot Chief of Staff Mark Sheffield escorts the Tuskegee Airmen (Dr. Eugene Robinson, SSGT Henry Moore and LTC John Harrison) through the HMMWV line in Building 350.

IRAQI FREEDOM AWARDS

During an Awards Ceremony in the Building 10, Great Room on April 17th, Letterkenny Commander Colonel Robert Swenson presented two Soldiers and one Airman awards for exceptional service while deployed to Letterkenny Army Depot in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MAJ Gregory A. Pasco and MSG Leon Souders received the Meritorious Service Medal. TSgt Edward J. Holloway received the Army Commendation Medal.



T/SGT Edward J. Holloway, Directorate of Information Management, MSG Leon Souders and MAJ Gregory Pasco, Directorate of Maintenance.

"MARY JEMISON" Performed at Letterkenny

The Letterkenny Army Depot Special Emphasis Program hosted "Mary Jemison", as performed by the Concocheague Players on Wednesday April 5. The program took place at the HUB between 11:30-12:00. This presentation was given in honor of Woman's History Month through the Lunch-N-Learn program.

Mary Jemison was born in 1742 onboard the William and Mary as her family was making their way across the vast Atlantic Ocean. The Jemison's settled in the Marsh Creek settlement, which is presently near Gettysburg. It was rough on the frontier, but they stayed together as a family. In 1756 that all changed. The French and Indian war had broken out despite numerous attempts at negotiations. The war was particularly tough on those living on the frontier.

On April 5, 1758 Mary Jemison and her family were captured by the French soldiers and the Shawnee warriors. They were taken across the state of Pennsylvania to Ft. Duquesne, which is now present day Pittsburgh. Mary was permanently separated from her family as she was taken by the Indians and eventually adopted into the Seneca Tribe. It is with the Seneca's that she grew up and adopted their culture and accepted her new name, Dehgewanus which means two Falling Voices.

In her life Mary married two Native American men and gave birth to seven children. In 1823 Mary was interviewed in New York by Mr. James Seaver. This interview was published the following year and was entitled The Life and Times of Mrs. Mary Jemison. Ten years after her interview, in 1833 Mary passed away leaving a story of wonderful proportions.

It is this story which was the basis of "Mary Jemison" that was performed here at Letterkenny in April. Twenty two audience members listened to the dramatic reading and enjoyed hearing the life of such a courageous woman. The play was written by Mr. Marcus Steinour and preformed by Mr. Bob Appleton and Ms. Pat Byers.

"SUMMER SENSE CAMPAIGN"

Presented by the Army Substance Abuse Program and the Army Center Substance Abuse Program, E-Prevention Newsletter, May 2006

Summer is upon us and once again the Army Substance Abuse Program will support the Summer Sense Campaign, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

For many people summer time means more time outside with friends and family. Be it at the beach, the pool, a BBQ or any other outdoor activity, summer means more social time for many. Unfortunately, summer brings with it an increased rate of alcohol abuse and drunk driving.

To help deter and combat the increase of these high risk behaviors, two national substance abuse awareness campaigns take place every summer.

The first is the **"Summer Sense"** campaign. The primary goal is to illustrate how alcohol and other drugs increase the risk to accidents and injury while providing alternate, alcohol free activities. Examples of activities to offer might be intramural sports leagues, BBQ's where no alcohol is offered or fishing trips.

The other major summer campaign is National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration's **"You Drink, You Drive, You Lose"** campaign. This annual campaign takes a two pronged approach to reducing impaired driving.

The first part, education, reminds the public of the dangers and consequences of impaired driving via both the radio and TV public service announcements.

Increased education combined with the second prong, an increased law enforcement presence on the roads and at sobriety checkpoints, will result in more people realizing that if they're going to drink they need to stay at home or identify a sober designated driver.

This summer program will emphasize healthy and safe ways to engage in summer activities.

To schedule unit or organization training contact the ASAP office at 245-4576.

AGPU TURBINE AREA

By Serina Henke, LEAN

The AGPU, aviation ground power unit, is a new commodity at Letterkenny Army Depot. Production of 10 AGPUs per month under the SLEP, service life extension program, started in April.

As part of the setup Lean is conducting mini RIEs in the subassembly areas. John Rodgers started to setup his own area to do the turbine subassembly before the mini RIE. He already had a copy of the DMWR, the parts manual, and other documentation in binders with sheet protectors. He had some hardware bins labeled in one parts tree. I helped him assemble a new parts tree, label the rest of the hardware bins, create a floor layout, and create a task list.

Time observations were performed and a spaghetti diagram created. A shadow box was setup with the tools labeled to replace a massive toolbox. Tools that are not needed for the area have been identified and will be turned in with the toolbox. Lift tables were ordered to aid in the ergonomics of the work area.



This implementation was achievable because of John Rodgers. He has supported the Lean concept and initiated the setup of his own area. Lean is successful as a result of the employees.

AMC REDUCES BUREAUCRACY

U. S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) has transformed itself into a leaner organization of about 49,000 civilian employees.

Rapid technological improvements, an international trend toward downsizing and a series of Base Realignment and Closings have all combined to transform today's Army and AMC into a leaner, more streamlined organization.

Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD) has been influenced by all these events during the last two decades. The depot is leaner today than ever before thanks to a process known as Lean Manufacturing. The depot employs about 1300 federal civilian employees, complimented by about five hundred contractor employees, on a campus where overall DOD tenant and LEAD employment is about 2900.

When Lean manufacturing was endorsed and promoted by AMC in 2002, Letterkenny entered the on-going Lean journey with enthusiasm.

Continued next page

Bureaucratic barriers are eliminated early in the employee-driven Lean process. A team consisting of Lean experts joins with employees from the work area and at least one outside “set of eyes” is added. A management representative acting as a “tie-breaker” and called a “barrier buster” is added to the team. The team looks at a process in a given area and has authority to make instant changes.

A successful Lean event identifies wasteful movements and processes. Every ingredient in the process is examined and can result in identifying an area that has more employees than necessary. The natural forces of resistance were quickly overcome with a Command promise that no employee would lose their job as a result of Lean. Once employees were comfortable that their jobs were safe (although they could be reassigned), the unions assured future success by engaging early in the Lean process.

Letterkenny, the Army’s tactical missile and repair facility, applied Lean concepts to our core mission areas early in the process. The first process where Lean was applied was in the Patriot Missile and Recapitalization facility. We learned early that Lean works. Once Lean techniques were employed, for example, the depot learned that it could repair 40 Patriot launcher systems for the price of 36. This amounted to a savings of \$1.2 million.

It is all about efficiency and the continual process of Lean.

Letterkenny next applied Lean to transform our Special Forces Ground Mobility Vehicle line. Production was increased to 24 vehicles a week during the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. More importantly, the process allowed the depot to dramatically reduce turnaround time. Imagine reducing turnaround time from 10 weeks to just 8.8 days! An added bonus was a savings of \$990,000 to the customer.

When the depot was called on to produce Armor products, it applied Lean techniques to this process. We began by producing armored boxes. The next project was fabricating armor door kits. 860 of these door kits were produced ahead of schedule and under cost. We later produced armor kits for 5,000 gallon tankers and M939 truck cabs.

You might think these savings and efficiencies are significant and they are, but they are only part of the success.

Applying Lean and identifying waste tends to tighten the process and reduce wasted floor space. This creates new benefits and many new opportunities.

Word spread and Letterkenny became known as a “Capabilities Based Depot”, able to produce for the Soldier faster, better and cheaper. The Soldier wins in another way. By identifying and returning Lean savings to our DOD customer, they are able to apply these savings to additional equipment for repair.

The floor space that was vacated through Lean efforts allows opportunities for new partnerships and generates capabilities to deliver even more to our DOD customers.

Letterkenny recently partnered with Lockheed Martin Missile and Fire Control to test and repair the Javelin missile and TADS/PNVS—Target Acquisition, Designation Sight/Pilot’s Night Vision Sensor, a subassembly of the Apache attack helicopter.

The depot will “recap” 3200 HMMWV’s in FY06. We will repair 250 generators a month during FY06 also. The depot resets Force Provider units and returns them to the field so Soldiers can enjoy a few comforts like showers and hot meals.

We also repair Aviation Generation Power Units, those generators feeding power to aircraft on the ground. We assemble Biological Integrated Detection System shelters and overhaul Mobile Kitchen Trailers.

Letterkenny’s employees have enjoyed a boost in morale that comes with participating in identifying efficiencies and their contributions toward victory in the Global War on Terror.

Letterkenny’s successful application of Lean concepts has brought the depot highly acclaimed recognition. LEAD became the first Army Depot ever to win the Shingo Prize, Public Service category. Business Week has recognized winning this award as the equivalent of a Nobel Prize for manufacturing.

Employees at Letterkenny Army Depot are proud of their accomplishments and their continued support to the Warfighter.

REMINDER TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS

"It's that time of the year again for people to take steps to reduce their risk of becoming infected with West Nile virus," said Pennsylvania State Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson.

Last year in Pennsylvania, there were 25 cases of human West Nile Virus and two deaths that may have been related to the infections. In 2004, there were 15 human cases and two deaths.

The Army has a team that cooperates with local authorities to help fight the spread of the virus. The team includes the Department of Public Works, Dunham Army Health Clinic Environmental Health Office and Allegheny District Veterinarian Command.

While most people infected do not get sick, a small percentage of those infected will experience a fever, rash, headache, meningitis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the brain), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or even death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Anyone is at risk, but older adults and people with compromised immune systems have the highest risk of developing severe illness because their bodies have a harder time fighting off disease.

Simple steps can reduce the risk of contracting West Nile virus. If you will be outdoors in areas where mosquitoes may be prevalent, remember to use insect repellent containing DEET, especially during dawn and dusk, and wear long sleeves and light colored clothing.

Residents can take a few simple steps in their own back yards to reduce their risk of contracting the West Nile virus. Mosquitoes will develop in any puddle that lasts for more than four days.

Tips to eliminate standing water:

Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on your property. Pay special attention to discarded tires that may have accumulated on your property; Drill holes in the bottom of containers that are left outdoors. Drainage holes that are

located on a container's sides allow them to collect enough water for mosquitoes to breed; Clean clogged roof gutters on an annual basis; Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows and birdbaths when not in use; Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish; Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. Mosquitoes may even breed in water that collects on swimming pool covers or tarps covering equipment or vehicles such as RVs or boats; and use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.

US ARMY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED AT LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT

On June 14, 2006 Letterkenny Army Depot participated in the celebration of the United States Army's 231st Birthday. The celebration was held in the Depot's headquarters.

LEAD Commander, COL Robert Swenson, opened the ceremony with a history of how the US Army began back in 1775 when citizens banded together to fight off the greatest army the world had ever seen, The British Empire. As tradition goes, the youngest soldier and the oldest soldier were given the honor to cut the birthday cake. SPC Julie Lockey, the youngest soldier, and CW4 Larry Seavolt, the oldest soldier, cut the cake with a replica Union Sword from the Civil War. Depot employees were invited to share the cake and celebrate the birthday.



COL Robert Swenson, SPC Lockey, CW4 Seavolt and Sergeant-Major Curtis Green.



Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

Obtaining a Retirement Estimate

You must be within five years of your retirement date in order to request a retirement estimate from the Army Benefits Center - Civilian (ABC-C) at Fort Riley, KS.

One way to obtain a retirement estimate is by using the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at 1-877-276-9287. Press 1 when the system asks "If you are a Department of Army civilian employee, please press 1 now." Press 2 when the system asks "To access the Benefits and Entitlements Services System, press 2." Press 1 when the system asks "For current Army serviced employees, press 1." Enter your Social Security Number and 6-digit PIN when you are prompted by the system. You will then enter the "Modules" section of the IVRS. Press 2 for retirements. Press 0 to speak to a counselor.

Your retirement estimate will be processed in approximately three to six weeks and mailed to your home address.

You can also get an estimate from the ABC - C website at <https://www.abc.army.mil>. Click on the "Benefits/EBIS" Button. Click on Continue. Enter your Social Security Number and 6-digit PIN. Click on ArmyEBIS. Enter your Social Security Number and 6-digit PIN and click Login. Next click on the "My Benefits" button. Click on the "Retirement" tab to obtain your personal statement of benefits.

Keep in mind that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is the final adjudicator of retirement annuities. The ABC-C recommends that retiring employees submit their retirement packages to the ABC-C 90-120 days before their retirement effective date.

Retirement Information and Final Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)

Did you know that important information appears on your Leave and Earning Statement (LES) after your retirement documents are processed at the Defense Finance and

Account Service (DFAS) office? The following statement is what you can expect to see on your final LES.

- Your (FERS or CSRS) Retirement Data was sent to OPM (Date DFAS processed register)
- Separation Date
- Register Number
- Payroll Office Number
- For questions please call: 1-888-767-6738 OR 1-202-606-0500 or write the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at:
 - OPM Retirement Operations Center
P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045

Your retirement information will be forwarded to OPM within thirty days of your retirement date. If this timeframe has passed and you have not heard from OPM, please contact us at 1-877-276-9287 so we may assist you in checking the status of your retirement action and/or package.

Leave without Pay - US to Serve on Active Duty

If you are on Leave without Pay (LWOP)-US to serve on active duty, you may be interested in making a military deposit to get credit for that period of service towards retirement. For more information on how to make a deposit, visit the ABC-C website at <https://www.abc.army.mil/Information/ABCRetirement/Information/Information.asp>.

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Letterkenny Army Depot employees Keith Quimbach, William McCloskey, Paul Brandt, and Robert Southern; USASAC employee Wendy Forney; and USAREC employee George Chisolm are all approved to receive annual leave donations under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP).

To donate annual leave, employees should complete either an OPM 630-A (for leave recipients within your agency) or an OPM 630-B (for leave recipients outside your agency). Submit the completed OPM 630-A or OPM 630-B through your supervisor to your servicing DFAS Customer Service Representative. Any employee who wishes to

become a leave recipient must submit a written application (OPM 630) through the supervisory chain to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) for approval/disapproval. Forms are available online at the OPM website (www.opm.gov) or from the CPAC.

Comings and Goings

Letterkenny Army Depot welcomes... Randy Rank to the Directorate of Product Assurance; Leon Souders, Bryan Ditlow, and Bryan Storts to the Directorate of Maintenance; Stacy Ling to the Directorate of Contracting; and Michael Cline to the Directorate of Supply and Transportation...**and bids farewell to...**Rodney Mellot of the Directorate of Risk Management; James Ritchie and Adrian Covert of the Directorate of Maintenance; and Susan Gibson of the Directorate of Contracting.

DAVID M. GOODMAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GOES TO KIM RUSSELL

Ms. Kim C. Russell, Letterkenny Army Depot's (LEAD) Public Affairs Officer, was awarded the David M. Goodman Achievement Award by Letterkenny Commander, Colonel Robert A. Swenson.



Kim Russell with award

Ms. Russell received this award in the Professional/Technical category. She was

selected from among four nominees for this annual award based on her ability to promote the depot in national military publications through her writing skills. Her full-length articles have appeared in national military publications such as Army Logician, Special Operations Technology, and Chem-Bio Defense Quarterly. She also co-wrote an article describing Letterkenny's overhaul of generator sets that appeared in Army AL& T (Acquisition Logistics and Technology).

Ms. Russell represents Letterkenny at DOD related trade shows. General(R) Paul Kern, then Commanding General of U.S. Army Materiel Command wrote: "Kim – You have kept Letterkenny in everyone's heart. Thanks for all you have done for our Soldiers."

Forever Letterkenny's ambassador, Ms. Russell has earned a reputation among her peers as a great spokesperson for Letterkenny Army Depot and the Army. Reacting to Kim's article in the Army Logician, Major General James Pillsbury, Commanding General of U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, AL wrote: "Kim - Fabulous article! I'm more and more impressed with you and the Letterkenny team!" She is active in many charitable organizations in Franklin County and the Greater Chambersburg Area Chamber of Commerce. This award recognizes her high degree of professional excellence and motivation in her quest to propel LEAD's story to the forefront during the on-going Global War on Terrorism.

Runners up for the award were also recognized and received certificates from Colonel Swenson. They include Samuel Beauchamp, Jeffrey Kimple and James Snively. The selection was made by a voting panel comprised of management and non-management representatives.

The award was established and named after Mr. Goodman, former Letterkenny Director of Maintenance, in recognition of his selfless service, steadfast support, and outstanding contributions to the depot. It was established in 2004 as an honorary award to recognize employees whose exceptional performance of duties significantly advanced and supported the depot's mission.